

by Dr. Wm. de la Barre of Minneapolis. The locality is in the extreme western part of Minnesota close to the Dakota line and lies within the Coteaux region of the State where the fauna and flora are strongly colored by species and subspecies characteristic of the plains region farther west. The specimen is now No. 3484 in the collection of the Minnesota Natural History Survey. It was recently examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher and the identification verified. As far as known this is the first well authenticated record of the occurrence of this species in Minnesota, the only previous record being by G. G. Cantwell (O. & O., Vol. XVI, Oct., 1891, p. 157) reporting the somewhat doubtful and unverified capture of a specimen in the winter of 1890-91 in Swift County, western Minnesota.—THOS. S. ROBERTS, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Agelaius phœniceus fortis in Louisiana.—In a series of six Redwings taken at Belcher, Louisiana, February 4, 1908, was one specimen (♀) referable to this subspecies — the others being *A. p. phœniceus*. This is the first record of the Giant Redwing in the State. The specimen in question was originally recorded¹ as *A. p. arctolegus* on the authority of H. C. Oberholser who, after going over the whole group again in greater detail, now decides that this bird should be referred to *fortis*.—ARTHUR H. HOWELL, *Washington, D. C.*

Pine Siskins and Winter Bobolinks.—The water front of Private Claims 120 and 321, City of Detroit, is a point of land reaching out into Lake St. Clair. The shore is lined with summer cottages behind which is a belt of weed-grown solid ground, about 100 yards in width, and then a marsh belt, about as wide, which brings you to the solid mainland. Between the marsh and mainland is a canal, the excavation from which forms an embankment some seven feet high with a row of Lombard poplars on the top. Near the westerly end the embankment runs out into the marsh and thence, at right angles, returns to the mainland leaving a strip of marsh, 20 × 100 yards, between the embankment and mainland that affords ample shelter from the lake winds and a food supply for the seed-eaters in the abundance of weeds growing along the sloping embankment. A number of times, during the last eighteen years, I have seen small flocks of Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*) migrating northward in this vicinity during March. It was not until the autumn of 1908 that I decided to secure a specimen and directed my attention to this point as the most promising locality. November 8 was the date set for the first visit and a better could not have been selected. Mr. Herbert H. Spicer and the writer spent two hours on the embankment opposite the piece of sheltered marsh and directly on the flight line of the Pine Siskins. They came from about 25 degrees east of north in flocks of from three to a hundred or more indi-

¹ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, XXI, p. 121, 1908. Of the identity of the specimen of *arctolegus* recorded from Natchitoches there is no question.

viduals, and at intervals of about ten minutes between each flock. When the lake was reached they rose higher and continued their journey without a pause, except one large flock that broke in confusion and swung back to the weeds on the mainland but joined the next flock a few minutes later. November 15 the flight had ceased and only one flock of 23 birds was seen. They were in the weeds back of the cottages and refused to be driven away. They were gone on the 22d, and from that date to the present writing, January 12, only one to four individuals have been noted on any one day, and none of these were migrating. When the Redpolls reach here from the north they are content to remain, and I fail to understand why the bulk of Siskins go further south, as local food conditions are in every way favorable.

While observing the flight of Siskins, November 8, we saw a bird perched on a willow bush in the sheltered marsh and secured it. The report of the gun caused another to take flight which was also secured. They were Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), and dissection disclosed the fact that both were females and very fat. We then carefully beat over this marsh, together with the larger open marsh, but could find no more. November 15 and 22 we again unsuccessfully explored this section, but secured a male December 6 within a few yards of where the other two were taken. This bird must have arrived after November 22, for it seems impossible that he could have been there and escape detection. He was much emaciated and healed gunshot wounds were discovered in breast and wing. We went over this ground again December 13 without success. December 20 we were returning from the point when the characteristic call note of a Bobolink directed our attention to the bird passing overhead and making for the point. It was followed and taken. It turned out to be a male and in fine condition, being very fat. A careful examination failed to reveal the slightest trace of a previous injury; nevertheless I believe that temporary impairment of flight by gunners during the period of migration explains the presence of all four birds. The most interesting fact in connection with the two latter birds was their ability to endure 18° below freezing, for the mercury dropped to that point prior to December 6. I supposed the Bobolink to be of somewhat delicate constitution with reference to low temperature, as normally it arrives late in spring and departs early in autumn, but the above birds not only withstood the cold but in a thinly feathered and poorly protected condition. Examining the specimens for other points of interest I find that black feathers show on the throat, neck, flanks, thighs and across breast on the December 6 bird but are confined to sides of breast, flanks and thighs on the December 20 specimen, which seems to be a bird of the year. The general color of the underparts is buffy white on the former and buffy olive on the latter, and all the black feathers are edged with these colors, and this may indicate the beginning of the spring transformation.— J. CLAIRE WOOD, *Detroit, Michigan.*